

*The
Kentucky
primary
program
builds
foundations
for
lifelong
learners.*



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The Kentucky Primary Program



The Roots of Success

*Kentucky Department of
Education*

Gene Wilhoit
Commissioner

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What is the Primary Program?

According to Kentucky Law, KRS 158.031(4), the “primary school program” means that part of the elementary school program in which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they are ready to enter the fourth grade. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, successful completion of the primary school program shall be a prerequisite for a child’s entrance into fourth grade.



The primary program is an un-graded system of education for children, formerly K-3, to thrive in an environment which meets their learning needs. The primary program includes **seven critical attributes** to support learning and development for all students.



What are the Critical Attributes ?

- 1. Developmentally Appropriate Educational Practices-** Teaching children based on their individual readiness for content, skill or instructional approach.
- 2. Multiage and Multiability Classrooms-** Children grouped for learning not solely by age but by needs-in flexible groups that may change throughout the school day.
- 3. Continuous Progress-** Each child is expected and allowed to progress through the program at his/her own pace of learning.
- 4. Authentic Assessment-** Ongoing documentation of what students learn and do in their day-to-day classroom activities.
- 5. Qualitative Reporting Methods-** Communicating a child’s progress to the child and to his/her family with a focus on the growth and development of the whole child.
- 6. Professional Teamwork-** All school staff talking and planning together on a regular basis to support student learning.
- 7. Positive Parent Involvement-** Schools actively seeking to increase parent participation and involve parents as partners and decision makers to support their child’s learning.



What are some resources for help?

The following resources can be found at:
<http://www.education.ky.gov>

- ◆ Primary 2000 and Beyond
- ◆ Primary Education Program of Studies
- ◆ Characteristics and Attributes of Primary Program Practices
- ◆ Regional Early Childhood Area Coordinators
- ◆ Online Content Advisory Committees
- ◆ Elementary Implementation Manual
- ◆ School Level Performance Descriptors
- ◆ Glossary for Kentucky Standards and Indicators for School Improvement
- ◆ Instructional Resources

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